

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A fuse body for receiving a fuse element assembly, the fuse element assembly having opposite ends and a length therebetween, and the fuse element assembly including a helical fuse element extending substantially the entire length between the opposite ends, said fuse body comprising a first end, a second end spaced from the first end by a distance substantially equal to the length of the fuse element assembly, and a bore extending through said body between said first end and said second end, said bore comprising a clearing portion having a first cross sectional area and a positioning portion having a second cross sectional area, said first cross sectional area larger than said second cross sectional area to prevent the helical fuse element from contacting an interior surface of the clearing portion.

2. (original) A fuse body in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said clearing portion extends for a first length, said positioning portion extends for a second length, said first length greater than said second length.

3. (original) A fuse body in accordance with Claim 1, said bore further comprising a guide portion intermediate said clearing portion and said positioning portion, said guide portion comprising a cross sectional area intermediate said first cross sectional area and said second cross sectional area.

4. (original) A fuse body in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said bore is circular in cross section.

5. (original) A fuse body in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said fuse body is substantially rectangular.

6. (original) A fuse body in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said body is fabricated from Alumina Zirconia.

7. (currently amended) A fuse body for a fuse element assembly having an outer dimension, said fuse body comprising:

a first end surface configured to ~~have~~ receive a first conductive end cap ~~secured thereto~~ enclosing said fuse body at said first end surface;

a second end surface configured to ~~have~~ receive a second conductive end cap ~~secured thereto~~ enclosing said fuse body at said second end surface; and

a longitudinal bore extending through said fuse body from said first end surface to said second end surface, said bore comprising a positioning portion and a clearing portion, said positioning portion receiving the outer dimension of the fuse element assembly and maintaining the fuse element assembly in a substantially centered position within said clearing portion, thereby preventing the fuse element assembly from contacting an interior surface of the bore when the fuse element assembly is mounted within said bore.

8. (original) A fuse body in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said fuse body is fabricated from Alumina Zirconia.

9. (original) A fuse body in accordance with Claim 7, said bore further comprising a guide portion intermediate said clearing portion and said positioning portion.

10. (original) A fuse body in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said guide portion is conical in shape.

11. (original) A fuse body in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said first and second end surfaces are substantially square.

12. (previously presented) A fuse comprising:

a fuse body comprising a first end, a second end and a bore extending therethrough, said bore comprising a clearing portion having a first cross sectional area and a positioning portion having a second cross sectional area, said first cross sectional area different than said second cross sectional area;

a fuse element assembly within said bore and extending substantially from said first end to said second end of said bore, said fuse element assembly comprising an outer dimension substantially coextensive with said second cross sectional area, a portion of said fuse element assembly substantially centered within said first cross sectional area, thereby ensuring a clearance between a fuse element and an interior surface of said fuse body within said clearing portion;

a first end cap secured to said first end of said fuse body and electrically connected to said fuse element assembly; and

a second end cap secured to said second end of said fuse body and electrically connected to said fuse element assembly.

13. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said fuse body is fabricated from Alumina Zirconia.

14. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said fuse body is substantially rectangular.

15. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said bore is substantially circular.

16. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12, said fuse body further comprising a guide portion intermediate said positioning portion and said clearing portion.

17. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said fuse element assembly comprises at least one fuse element comprising a first end, a second end, and a central portion, said fuse element assembly situated in said bore so that said central portion of said at least one fuse element is disposed within said clearing portion.

18. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said clearing portion extends for a first length, said positioning portion extending for a second length, said first length greater than said second length.

19. (previously presented) A fuse in accordance with Claim 18 said fuse body further comprising a guide portion intermediate said positioning portion and said clearing portion, wherein said guide portion extends for a third length, said third length less than said first length.

20. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 19 wherein said third length is less than said second length.

21. (previously presented) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said end caps comprise substantially flat plates for surface mounting of said fuse.